

# NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**Department of**  
**Industrial Relations**  
**News For Immediate Release**  
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## **FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS PROGRAM NOT RENEWED BY CONGRESS; CLAIMS PAID IN ALABAMA TOTAL OVER \$157 MILLION**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, May 22, 2004 . . . . .The U.S. Senate last week narrowly defeated an amendment that would have again renewed the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program. A total of more than \$157 million has been paid to Alabamians who filed claims under the TEUC program, administered by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

The TEUC program provided up to an additional 13 weeks of federally-funded unemployment compensation benefits to those who exhausted their regular maximum of 26 weeks of jobless benefits.

“Over 92,000 claims have been filed in Alabama since the original TEUC program began in March 2002,” says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. “When the economy took a downturn and unemployment rose, the extended benefits helped thousands of Alabamians during their time of need.”

Congress implemented the TEUC program in March 2002 as part of the “Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002,” designed to help stimulate the economy following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Congress had extended the TEUC program in January 2003 and May 2003. The TEUC program concluded on April 3, 2004.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on Industrial Relations, visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.